

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-14. (canceled)

15. (new) A method for using a proxy device to charge for a service in a communication network, comprising:

- receiving a request for a service from a client;
- performing an authentication of the client in response to receiving the service request;
- sending the client a reference to an application server in response to a successful authentication, the application server providing the requested service;
- receiving from the application server a ticket having information relating the charges for the service;
- sending a request for a charge acknowledgement to the client in response the receiving the ticket;
- receiving a charge acknowledge response from the client; and
- performing a charge registration for the ticket in response to the charge acknowledgement response.

16. (new) The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein the charges occur during the use of the service.

17. (new) The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein the charges occur before the use of the service.

18. (new) The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein the charge registration includes updating a credit status or charge status of the client.

19. (new) The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein the charge registration includes storing the ticket for a subsequent billing.

20. (new) The method in accordance with claim 15, further comprising notifying the client of charges included for the charge registration.

21. (new) A method for using a application server to charge for a service in a communication network, comprising:

receiving a service request from a client, the service request including a reference to a proxy device;

creating a ticket in response to the service request, the ticket including information about the charges due to the client for the service;

sending a service acceptance to the client, whereby a service relationship is established between the application server and the client;

sending the ticket to the proxy device;

receiving a message from the proxy device indicating if the ticket was acknowledged by the client; and

maintaining the service relationship for the client if the message indicates the ticket was positively acknowledged.

22. (new) The method in accordance with claim 21, wherein the ticket indicates the charges occur during the use of the service.

23. (new) The method in accordance with claim 21, wherein the ticket indicates the charges occur before the use of the service.

24. (new) The method in accordance with claim 21, further comprising ending the service relationship to the client if the message indicates that the ticket was negatively acknowledged

25. (new) The method in accordance with claim 21, further comprising ending the service relationship to the client if the message indicates that ticket was not acknowledged.

26. (new) The method in accordance with claim 21, further comprising ending the service relationship to the client if proxy device notifies the server that a sufficient credit is not available in the case of a pre-paid client.

27. (new) A method of use of a client in order to be charged for a service in a communication network, comprising:  
sending a service request to a proxy device;  
receiving a reference to the requested service from the proxy device;  
setting up a service relationship to an application server based on the reference;  
receiving from the proxy device a billing message having charge information for the service; and  
responding to the proxy with a billing response.

28. (new) The method in accordance with claim 27, further comprising displaying the charges to an end user.

29. (new) The method in accordance with claim 28, wherein the charges are displayed in real time.

30. (new) The method in accordance with claim 28, further comprising receiving a response from the end user pertaining to the charges.

31. (new) A method for charging for a service in a communication network, comprising:  
sending a service requesting to a proxy device by a client;  
performing an authentication of the client via the proxy device;  
sending a service request response to the client by the proxy device in response to a successful authentication, the response having a service reference;  
communicating a proxy device reference to an application server by the client;  
establishing a service relationship between the application server and the client based on the service reference;  
creating a ticket by the application server;

sending the created ticket to the proxy device, the created ticket having billing information;

sending a request to the client to acknowledge the billing information, the request sent by the proxy device; and

including the ticket in a charge registration action by the proxy device if the proxy device receives an acknowledgment to the billing information by the client.

32. (new) The method according to claim 31, further comprising:  
forwarding the acknowledgement of the billing information to the application server; and  
maintaining the service relationship if the billing information is positively acknowledged.

33. (new) The method according to claim 31, further comprising:  
forwarding the acknowledgement of the billing information to the application server; and  
ending the service relationship if the billing information is negatively acknowledged.